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ACTION COMICS
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SUPERMAN,
This was your Life...
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KRYPTON...
...A PLACE OF WONDERMENT AND DREAMS...
...A COLD AND BARREN PLANET, RULED BY REASON...
...LARA AND JOR-L, MY PARENTS...
A LEADER ON THE COUNCIL, BUT IGNORED BY--
--LOVERS WHO BROKE WITH CENTURIES OF COLD TRADITION TO--
-- A LONE SCIENTIST FACED WITH THE MOST DIRE OF CHOICES--
SAVED THEIR ONLY SON--
--SHARED THEIR GENETIC MATERIAL IN THE BIRTHING MATRIX--
-- ACTIVATED THE STARDRIVE AND--
AND...

SUPERMAN: THIS IS YOUR LIFE
PART TWO

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...SOMEONE NEEDS TO FIX IT.
SCREEE-
-EE
FIX EVERYTHING.
COME ON, BOYS... IT'S ONLY GONNA BE A PAGE ONE STORY IF I LIVE TO REPORT IT!
PLEASE, MISS LANE! GET BACK TO YOUR SEAT, BEFORE--
WHOULFF! YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!
ACTUALLY, MISS LANE...
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
DEAR GOD...
SOMETHING CAUGHT US.
YOU! WHO ARE YOU?! HOW DID YOU DO THAT?! CAN I RECORD THIS?!

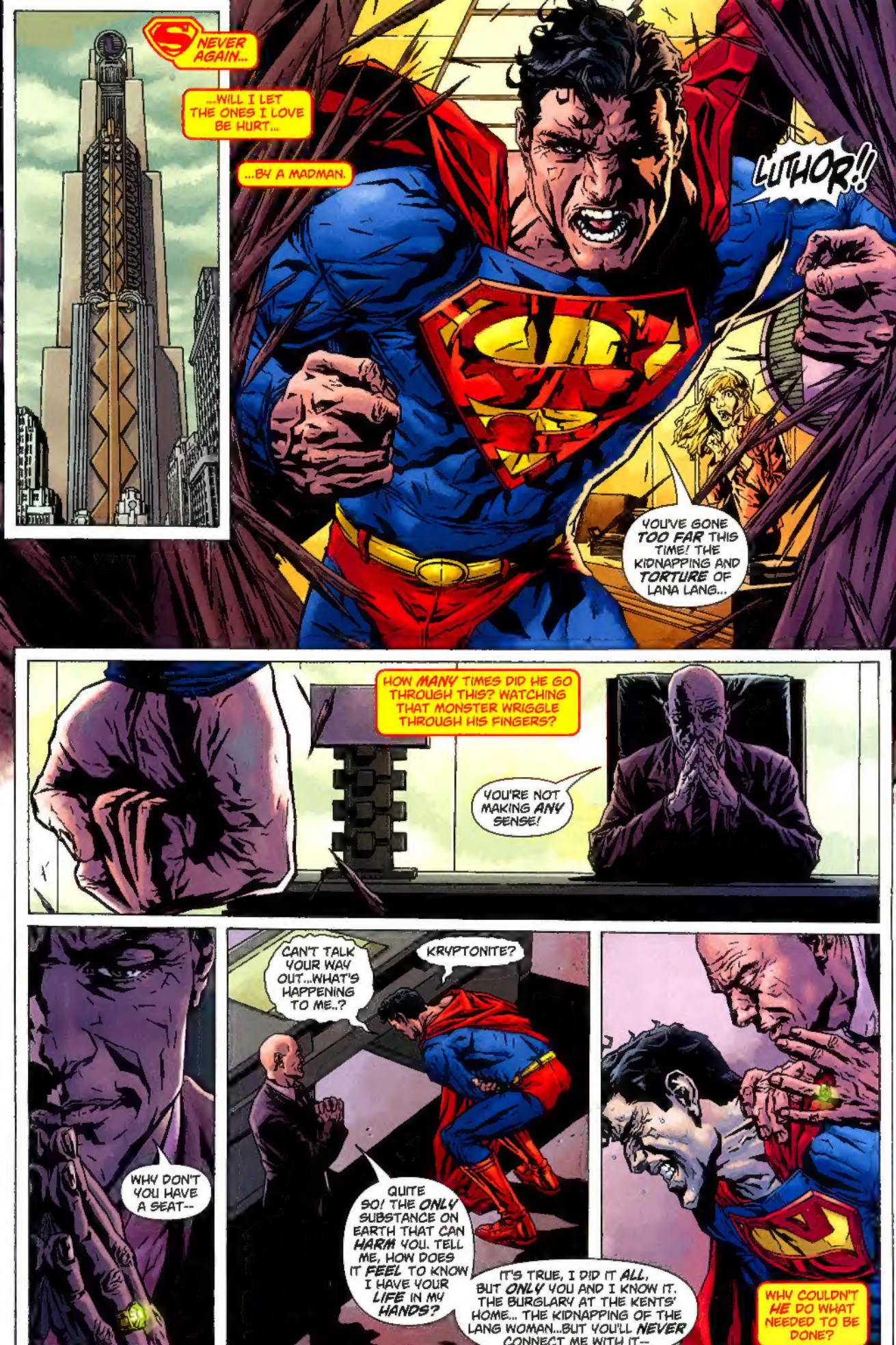
AND YOU ARE--?
LOIS LANE, DAILY PLANET, AND YOU'RE THE STORY OF THE CENTURY.
THAT RIGHT?
OVER HERE!
WHO ARE YOU?!
BACK OFF, VULTURES! HE'S MINE! LET HIM BREATHE!
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!
WATCH THIS, MISS LANE....
YOU CAN CALL ME SUPERMAN.
I'M HERE TO HELP.

SOMEONE TO...
...
I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...
HOW CAN YOU LEAD THE CORRUPT? THE BROKEN?
THE SICK?
AND WHERE WOULD YOU LEAD THEM ANYWAY..?
THE ENTIRE WORLD IS DISEASED.
WHY DIDN'T HE DO ANYTHING TO STOP THE WORLD FROM DYING, WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE?
WHY DIDN'T HE DO ANYTHING TO KILL THE CANCER BEFORE IT SPREAD?

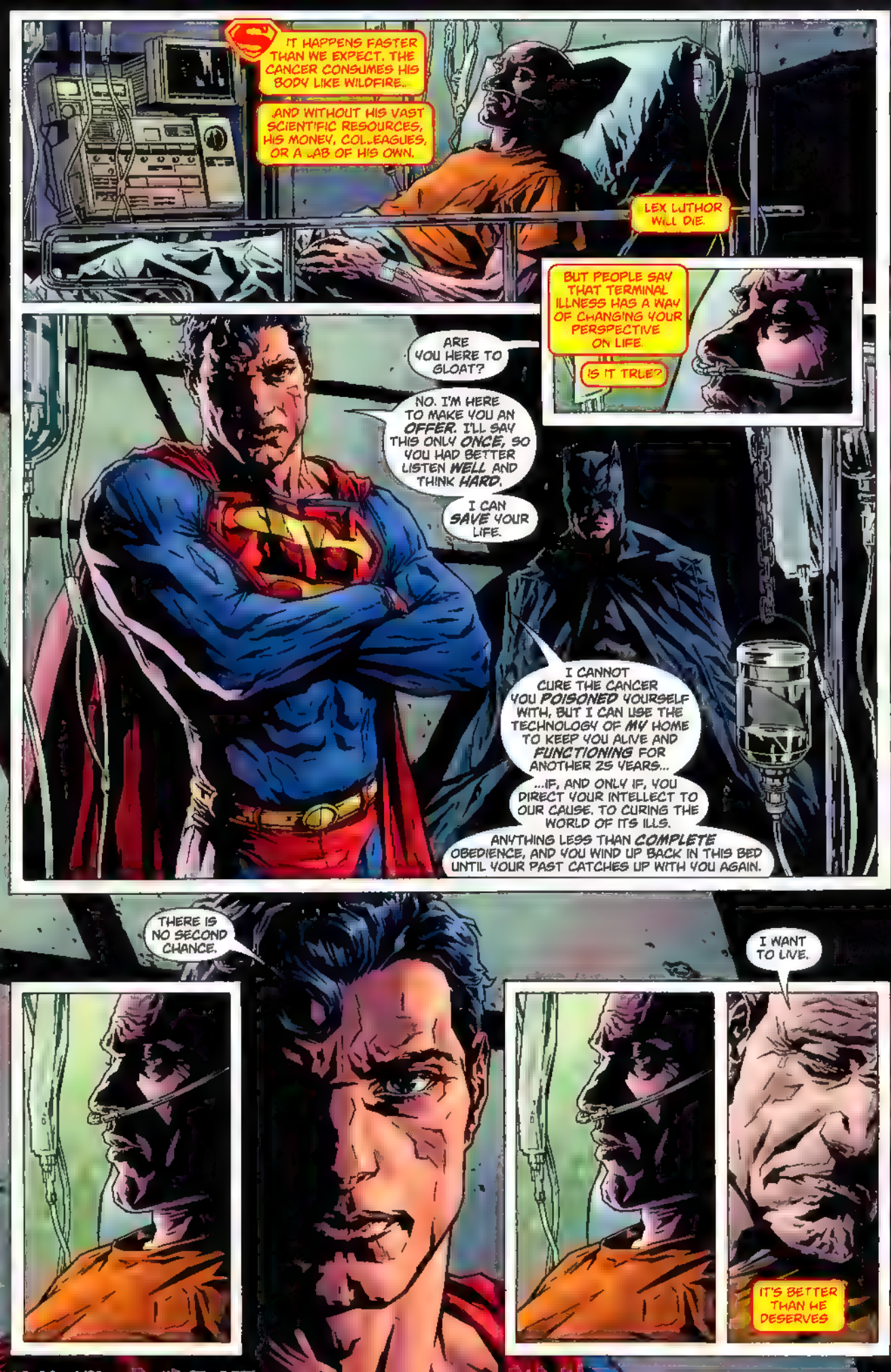
AGAIN, THE WORLD SHATTERS, AND I GO BACK...TO ANSWER MY OWN QUESTIONS.
SINCE I READ THE REPORTS OF YOUR DEBUT, I RATHER EXPECTED THAT WE'D CROSS PATHS, AND FIND OURSELVES AT ODDS...
...SO I DEVISED A WAY TO STOP YOU.
IF YOU PENETRATE THE FORCE FIELD SURROUNDING MY BODY, AN ELECTRIC SIGNAL WILL GO OUT INSTANTANEOUSLY...
...AND DETONATE A BOMB HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY. THE EXPLOSION WILL KILL AN INNOCENT PERSON.
...
LIAR.
SOMEONE TO LEAD THEM.

IT'S THE TRUTH.
YES, I KNOW IT IS. I CAN HEAR YOUR HEARTBEAT, YOUR BREATHING...
...THE ELECTRONIC TICKS OF THE BOMB ON YOUR BELT.
...BUT "INNOCENT?" IS THAT REALLY HOW YOU'D DESCRIBE YOURSELF?
I MAY BE AN OPTIMIST, BUT I'M NOT STUPID.
WHOOU
WHAT'S YOUR GAME?
NO GAME. I WANT TO MAKE THINGS BETTER. I WANT TO HELP...
AND I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY.
BECAUSE I HAVE A FEELING THAT IF YOU WALK IT LIKE YOU TALK IT...
...THERE MAY BE NOTHING WE CAN'T DO TOGETHER.

NOTHING... NOTHING I CAN'T DO, EXCEPT...
CLARK... C-CLARK..?
C-CLARK?
IT HURTS.
I'M HERE, LOIS.
NEVER AGAIN.


NEVER AGAIN...
...WILL I LET THE ONES I LOVE BE HURT...
...BY A MADMAN.
LUTHOR!!
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME! THE KIDNAPPING AND TORTURE OF LANA LANG...
HOW MANY TIMES DID HE GO THROUGH THIS? WATCHING THAT MONSTER WRIGGLE THROUGH HIS FINGERS?
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A SEAT--
CAN'T TALK YOUR WAY OUT...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME..?
KRYPTONITE?
QUITE SO! THE ONLY SUBSTANCE ON EARTH THAT CAN HARM YOU. TELL ME, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW I HAVE YOUR LIFE IN MY HANDS?
IT'S TRUE, I DID IT ALL, BUT ONLY YOU AND I KNOW IT. THE BURGLARY AT THE KENTS' HOME... THE KIDNAPPING OF THE LANG WOMAN...BUT YOU'LL NEVER CONNECT ME WITH IT--
WHY COULDN'T HE DO WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE?

HE DOESN'T NEED TO.
I CAN HANDLE THAT FOR HIM.
HE HAD THE TOOLS ALL ALONG...
AND THE MOST WILLING PARTNER OF ALL. LUTHOR COULD NEVER HAVE STOOD AGAINST THE TWO OF THEM IF HE'D HAD THE STOMACH TO DO WHAT IT TAKES..
WE HAVE IT ALL, LEX, YOUR CONFESSION ASIDE.
COLLATERAL DATA THAT CONNECTS YOU TO NOT ONLY THE LANG KIDNAPPING, BUT DOZENS OF OTHER CRIMES. FIFTY CONFESSIONS. WITNESSES. D.N.A.
YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL, LEX. EVERYTHING YOU OWN WILL BE SEIZED. YOU'RE FINISHED.
PLEASE. YOU THREATEN ME WITH A LITTLE JAIL TIME, ROUGH ME UP, AND I'M SUPPOSED TO SHRIVEL AND DIE?
NO, ALTHOUGH THAT IS AN INTERESTING CHOICE OF WORDS. WE'RE TELLING YOU ALL OF THIS, BEFORE THE POLICE HAUL YOU AWAY...
...SO YOU UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS.
NICE RING, BY THE WAY


IT HAPPENS FASTER THAN WE EXPECT. THE CANCER CONSUMES HIS BODY LIKE WILDFIRE.
AND WITHOUT HIS VAST SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES, HIS MONEY, COLLEAGUES, OR A LAB OF HIS OWN.
LEX LUTHOR WILL DIE.
BUT PEOPLE SAY THAT TERMINAL ILLNESS HAS A WAY OF CHANGING YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE.
IS IT TRUE?
ARE YOU HERE TO GLOAT?
NO. I'M HERE TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER. I'LL SAY THIS ONLY ONCE, SO YOU HAD BETTER LISTEN WELL AND THINK HARD.
I CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.
I CANNOT CURE THE CANCER YOU POISONED YOURSELF WITH, BUT I CAN USE THE TECHNOLOGY OF MY HOME TO KEEP YOU ALIVE AND FUNCTIONING FOR ANOTHER 25 YEARS...
...IF, AND ONLY IF, YOU DIRECT YOUR INTELLECT TO OUR CAUSE. TO CURING THE WORLD OF ITS ILLS.
ANYTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE OBEDIENCE, AND YOU WIND UP BACK IN THIS BED UNTIL YOUR PAST CATCHES UP WITH YOU AGAIN.
THERE IS NO SECOND CHANCE.
I WANT TO LIVE.
IT'S BETTER THAN HE DESERVES

AND THE WORLD MOVES ON. . TOWARDS BRIGHTER DAYS.
YOU DESERVE MORE...BETTER, THAN A LIFE OF SECRETS...
AND IF WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED, MY PARTNER NEEDS TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
SO THE TRUTH IS, I LOVE YOU, LOIS LANE...
AND I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU CAN LOVE ALL OF ME, AND BE MRS. SUPERMAN.
OH, MY GOD...
YOU @#^$#&!!
INCREDIBLE. IT'S THE SAME
EVEN IN A WORLD AS CORRUPT AS THIS ONE, LOIS REMAINS CONSTANT
DOES HE HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LUCKY HE IS?

THE WORLD SHATTERS... BUT THIS TIME...
I HAD TO DO IT, LOIS. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
THOSE WERE GOOD MEN AND WOMEN BEING OPENLY ATTACKED BY THE H.U.A.C. IT COULDN'T STAND...
..SOMEONE HAD TO STAND UP AND SAY NO MORE.
TODAY WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS. I...I MADE YOU SOMETHING.
I'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T WANT IT ANYMORE, BUT...
I PRESSURIZED THE DIAMOND MYSELF...IT'S FROM THE COAL MINES OF ZRIFF AND...
YOU STINKING LOUSE...
YOU *@$^$#&!
I KNOW THIS IS NOT MY LIFE. I KNOW IT IN THE INSTANT WE KISS... SO FAMILIAR, AND YET..
I'M GOING TO DO MY DAMNEDEST TO MAKE IT MINE...TO DO A BETTER JOB IN THIS PLACE THAN HE EVER DID.

IT ALL SHATTERS AGAIN, ONLY THIS TIME..THE SOUND OF DESTRUCTION DOES NOT STOP. I KNOW WHERE I AM.
IT'S HELL ON TWO LEGS
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LONG LIFE.. IN THIS OR ANY WORLD
I AM AFRAID
NOT BECAUSE I AM GOING TO DIE..BECAUSE I WON'T FINISH.
AND I REALIZE WITH CRYSTAL CLARITY...THAT THIS IS WHERE IT STARTED TO GO WRONG
THIS IS WHERE HE FELL, AND THE WORLD LOST ITS WAY

WHEN SUPERMAN DIES THE HEART OF THE WORLD STOPS
NO. NO. PLEASE.

I'M SORRY
S-STAY DOWN.. YOU--
NO..THEY HAVE TO SEE..THEY HAVE TO KNOW
THERE IS NO GREY AREA
THIS IS HOW WE DEAL WITH MONSTERS. WE DO NOT DEBATE THEIR RIGHTS WE DON'T CONSIDER THEIR REHABILITATION
WE STOP THEIR REIGN OF TERROR, DECISIVELY, WITHOUT COMPROMISE.
THE HEART CONTINUES TO BEAT, STRONGER THAN EVER
THE WAY IS CLEAR

ANOTHER LEAP FORWARD ANOTHER CRISIS
SOMETIMES THE AMOUNT OF DEBATE OVER WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG CAN BE OVERWHELMING SO MUCH TALK ABOLT THE SIMPLEST CHOICES
SO MUCH UNNECESSARY TALK
AND THESE ARE MEANT TO BE MY ALLIES
INCARCERATION. THAT'S CLEARLY THE ANSWER HERE. WE'VE GOT HIM DEAD TO RIGHTS.
WHAT YOU PEOPLE ARE SUGGESTING... IT'S...
IT'S A SIMPLE SPELL, GREEN LANTERN. ONE I AM FULLY PREPARED TO CAST
I DON'T KNOW, HAL. THINK ABOUT WHAT THIS MANIAC DID TO ELLE...
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?! WE CAN'T EVEN CONSIDER THIS--!
WHERE IS THE JUSTICE IF WE DON'T, ARCHER?! THIS IS A MEASURED RESPONSE! ZATANNA CAN SIMPLY ENTER HIS MIND AND--
THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU...
...THIS ARGUMENT ENDS NOW.
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. AND I'M HERE WITH A THIRD ALTERNATIVE.
NO DISCUSSION. NO DEBATE.
THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD'VE ALWAYS BEEN HERE IN THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE. THERE ARE DECISIONS THAT COULD'VE BEEN MADE. DECISIONS THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO MAKE.
BLT I DO

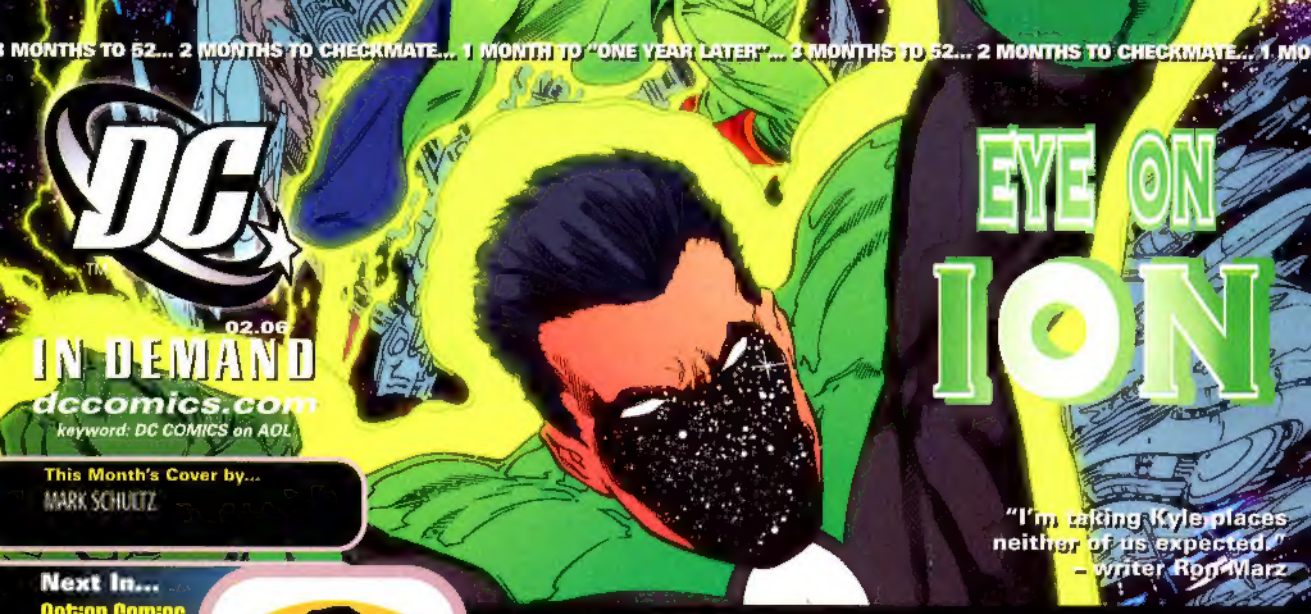
WHERE I COME FROM, WE MAKE DEFINITIVE DECISIONS ABOUT THIS KIND OF SCUM.
S-SO...THE BIG BLUE BOY SCOUT'S HERE TO MAKE ANOTHER SPEECH? Y'KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT YOU... .. GOT A GIRLFRIEND?
THIS IS HOW TO DEAL WITH MONSTERS...
HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT LIES AHEAD
NNNGGGG--!
NOOO
A LIVING HELL. A PERPETUAL STATE OF PUNISHMENT, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL. AN ENDLESS NIGHTMARE FROM WHICH THERE IS NO AWAKENING. A GIFT OF MY HERITAGE...
THE PHANTOM ZONE

THE WORLD GETS OLDER AND NO SMARTER. QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IN FACT. THEY DON'T SEE WHAT I SEE. IT'S GETTING WORSE.
IT'S INEVITABLE THAT MY SO-CALLED FRIENDS WOULD PLOT A MOVE AGAINST ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE OF US HAS BEEN MORE BLIND...
...YOU, IN YOUR REFUSAL TO ADAPT TO A CHANGING WORLD... OR ME FOR FOLLOWING YOU THIS FAR DOWN YOUR WELL-INTENTIONED PATH.
"ADAPT"? IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL IT?
YOU'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD, DIANA. THE WAYS OF THIS WORLD CORRUPTED ALL OF REALITY.
I'VE BEEN GIVEN ONE CHANCE TO PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING THIS TIME. I HAVE TO TAKE IT.
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, KAL...
...AND WE CAN NO LONGER CONDONE YOUR ACTIONS ON BLIND FAITH ALONE. ALL THOSE PEOPLE, EXILED TO YOUR PRIVATE HELL...
...IT'S INHUMANE AND WE CANNOT ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE.

I CAN SEE IT IN THEIR EYES. THE SO-CALLED "COMPLEXITIES" OF THIS WORLD
OPERATING IN TOO MANY SHADES OF GRAY INSTEAD OF BLACK AND WHITE AND IT'S GOTTEN THEM ABSOLUTELY NOWHERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING... WE CANNOT CONTINUE LIKE THIS.
I'M DISBANDING YOUR JUSTICE LEAGUE.
I THOUGHT I KNEW YOU.
OH MAN..
DON'T MAKE US DO THIS.. PLEASE...
NAMREPUS PLEE-- SPLEEP--
SUPERMAN SLEEP...?
ZATANNA?
I CAN'T... I CAN'T SPEAK BACKWARDS.
I'M AFRAID I'M A FEW STEPS AHEAD OF YOU, DIANA...
...I'M NOT HERE ALONE.
HE AIN'T EXAGGERATING, LUV...

THAT'S RIGHT, WITCH. SUCK IT.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, 'CHESTER.
SORRY, BATS, OLD HABITS. "LEAGUE RULES" FROM NOW ON.
SAY THE WORD, BOSS. WE'RE READY TO TAKE OVER.
I WILL LEAD THEM, THIS JUSTICE LEAGUE--THE ELITE-- AND WHERE THE IMPOSTOR FAILED...
...I WILL SUCCEED. I WILL SAVE THIS WORLD FROM ITSELF.
I WILL SAVE MY LOIS.

MEANWHILE...CERTAIN METROPOLIS YOUTHS DEAL WITH THE CRISIS... IN THEIR OWN WAY.
"IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT..."
COME ON, CAN'T BE LIKE THAT...SUPERMAN WENT UP THERE. HE'LL COVER IT--
SURE, OLSEN, JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE LIFE...HAVE ANOTHER ONE.
SERIOUS... NO MATTER HOW BAD IT GETS...
...NEVER GIVE UP ON THE "S."
OH, GOD... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO START CRYING-- OR SINGING?!
HEY, BETTER WATCH YOUR STEP--
WHOA!!
Concluded in:
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #649



Next In...

Action Comics #837

It's one year later and much has changed, including the creative team! Join Geoff Johns, Kurt Busiek and Pete Woods for part 1 of "Up, Up and Away!"

ION #1 (April 2006): There is life after Green Lantern for Kyle Rayner, and **Ron Marz**—the fan-favorite scribe who created him thirteen years ago—intends to prove it this April, when he and exciting artist-on-the-rise **Greg Tocchini** (*1602: New World*) introduce us to Kyle "One Year Later" in his new heroic alter ego, ION! If you thought Kyle was a figure of endless debate during his run as the Emerald Gladiator of Sector 2814, wait 'til you see the controversy he'll spark throughout this twelve-issue maxiseries: mass destruction, betrayal, a cute girl.... and that's just in the first half of issue #1!

A DOUBLE DATE WITH SUPERGIRL

She was clearly one of DC's hottest heroines throughout 2005, and we're confident that Supergirl will literally become twice as popular in 2006, beginning this March. One reason is the "One Year Later" plans that new series writer **Greg Rucka** and inspired illustrator **Ed Benes** are letting out of the bottle with SUPERGIRL #6. Truly, Kara Zor-El is going where no Supergirl has gone before, as she and Power Girl cut loose as Kandor's dynamic duo, Flamebird and Nightwing!

But wait, there's more! We urge you to also check out what's happening one thousand and one years later, when the Maid of Might becomes the newest member of the Legion of Super-Heroes! Even we're not quite sure how **Mark Waid** and **Barry Kitson** are pulling this one off, especially since the Legionnaires believed Supergirl to be an ancient fictional character. Nevertheless, her presence will definitely be felt in the 31st century, starting with issue #16 in March, when the book's title officially changes to SUPERGIRL & THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!

GIBBONS'S "TLC" FOR THE GLC

Having successfully RECHARGE-d the Green Lantern Corps last year, award-winning storyteller **Dave Gibbons** (WATCHMEN, THE ORIGINALS) is providing some extra juice as he powers up the new GREEN LANTERN CORPS ongoing this May. He's writing *and* drawing the first three issues of the new monthly, which chronicles the adventures of Guy Gardner, Kilowog, and GLs young and old as they show us the meaning of duty, service, and sacrifice in the limitless reaches of space. And don't expect the (power) battery life on this book to drain any time soon after — RECHARGE artist **Patrick Gleason** returns to the Corps fold with issue #4, helping Dave ensure that his ringbearers let no evil escape their sight!

NEXT STOP ... THE FUTURE!

As you all know, next month the DC Universe jumps "One Year Later," as new titles, creative teams and plotlines take the DCU in unexpected directions. Look for changes here as well, as we begin to break even bigger stories, showcase bolder art, and give you more of the behind-the-scenes news you've been demanding!

Come back in March, as a brave new world takes shape!

— The Mole at 1700

The Hot List THIS WEEK

BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #200

An extra-sized story written by Eddie Campbell and Daren White with amazing art by Bart Sears! The E.R. of Gotham General Hospital is overwhelming on the best of days... but it becomes pure pandemonium when the Joker is admitted — by Batman!

JLA #125

The astounding conclusion of the 6-part "World Without a Justice League!" Green Arrow takes years of pent-up resentment (fueled by the escaped Deadly Sin Envy and the newly amplified Key) and takes on the Batman for breaking up the League!

TEEN TITANS ANNUAL #1

Having narrowly survived the death and destruction of the INFINITE CRISIS, Superboy and Wonder Girl find some time alone in Smallville...but will it be a bloody Valentine?

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